

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preventing fraudulent tampering of an odometer disposed within a vehicle, comprising:
determining whether the vehicle has been driven for a predetermined period of time;
counting a number of pulses on an input to the odometer during the predetermined period of time; and
signaling an odometer fraud condition based on the number of pulses and said determining whether the vehicle has been driven for the predetermined period of time.
2. A method as according to claim 1, wherein the odometer fraud condition is signaled when the number of pulses is zero.
3. A method as according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined period of time is at least an hour.
4. A method as according to claim 1, wherein determining whether the vehicle has been driven includes:
monitoring one of more of the following conditions: gear shift position, parking brake position, seat belt buckling state, use of turn signals, use of headlights, whether an alternating current generator is operating in a high mode or a low mode, and tachometer input; and
determining whether the vehicle has been driven based on the one or more of the monitored conditions.

5. A method as according to claim 1, further comprising:
in response to signaling an odometer fraud condition, causing an error indication to be displayed on the odometer.
6. A method as according to claim 1, further comprising:
in response to signaling an odometer fraud condition, disabling operation of a speedometer when the pulses are received on the input to the odometer.
7. A computer-readable medium bearing instructions arranged to cause one or more processors to perform the method according to claim 1.
8. An instrumentation display system comprising a memory and a controller and configured to perform the method according to claim 1.
9. A method for preventing tampering of a recording device disposed within a vehicle, comprising:
determining whether the vehicle has been driven for a predetermined period of time;
counting a number of pulses on an input to the recording device during the predetermined period of time;
comparing the counted number of pulses with a predetermined threshold; and
if the vehicle has been driven for the predetermined period of time and if the counted number of pulses is less than or equal to the predetermined threshold, then signaling a fraud condition.
10. A method as according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined threshold is zero.

11. A method as according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined period of time is at least an hour.

12. A method as according to claim 9, wherein the recording device includes a digital odometer.

13. A computer-readable medium bearing instructions arranged to cause one or more processors to perform the method of claim 9.

14. An instrumentation display system comprising a memory and a controller and configured to perform the method according to claim 9.

15. A method for preventing tampering of an odometer disposed within a vehicle, comprising:
determining whether the vehicle has been driven for at least an hour;
counting a number of pulses on an input to the odometer during the hour; and
if the vehicle has been driven for the hour and if the counted number of pulses is zero, then causing an error indication to be displayed on the odometer.

16. A computer-readable medium bearing instructions arranged to cause one or more processors to perform the method of claim 15.

17. An instrumentation display system comprising a memory and a controller and configured to perform the method according to claim 15.